



Consultation, IA <consultation@bia.gov>

Discussion Draft Rule- 25 CFR 83

1 message

Cheri Loray <whoyabe2@yahoo.com>

Wed, Aug 14, 2013 at 9:38 AM

Reply-To: Cheri Loray <whoyabe2@yahoo.com>

To: "consultation@bia.gov" <consultation@bia.gov>

Cc: "achoctaw@yahoo.com" <achoctaw@yahoo.com>

Ms. Elizabeth Appel

Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action – Indian Affairs

1849 C Street, NW

MS 4141-MIB

Washington, DC 20240

consultation@bia.gov

cc: achoctaw@yahoo.com

Re: Discussion Draft Rule- 25 CFR 83

I Cheri Loray-Major support the recommendations of the Choctaw-Apache Community of Ebarb (petitioner #37) sent in letter dated 8/12/2013 from the Chairman and Tribal Council.

- The modified 83.6(d)(1) requiring that evidence be viewed "in a light most favorable to the petitioner" makes sense.
- I agree with proposed changes to eliminate Criteria (a), external observers identify the group as "Indian."
- OFA interpretations of "tribes which combined and functioned as a single autonomous political entity" have been overly stringent. Groups that have stayed together and maintained an Indian community identity is evidence of their intention to form a political and cultural community with one another. The OFA needs to adopt a more flexible interpretation regarding petitioners that formed in historical times through the combination of tribes and tribal fragments.
- Research support and advice should be an ongoing obligation of the federal government for groups showing evidence of Indian ancestry, up until the moment of a final decision.
- Potentially affected property owners and economic motivations for ensuring a tribe is never recognized should not have a louder voice than those who know a tribe's history and ethnology.

American Indians have survived in many forms, and it is important to nurture them where they persist. Tribes that have not been federally recognized are not always going to look exactly like tribes that have been federally recognized for hundreds of years, for a variety of reasons. They are not better or worse than federally recognized groups, just different. The federal government is legally and morally obligated to recognize Indigenous communities' status as indigenous polities that have survived hundreds of years despite assimilationist pressures.

Sincerely,

... *Cheri Loray-Major*

I wish you enough.....

I wish you enough sun to keep your life bright no matter how gray the day may appear.

I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun even more.

I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive and everlasting.

I wish you enough pain so that even the smallest of joys in life may appear bigger.

I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.

I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.

I wish you enough hellos to get you through the final good-bye.